

Meeting No. 1262

Top Secret

29 October 74

NATIONAL INDICATIONS CENTER

DRAFT WATCH REPORT

for

WATCH COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

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NIC No. 74-0130

NIC DRAFT WATCH REPORT
of the
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

No. 1262

29 October 1974

1 The Committee concludes that there will be
2 no military attack on the United States or
3 its overseas forces in the near future.

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4 Subjects of immediate concern are discussed
5 below.

6

7 I. Middle East

8 1. The agreement at the Arab Summit Conference to en-
9 dorse the Palestinian Liberation Organization as sole au-
10 thority representing Palestinians on the West Bank reduces
11 chances for successful negotiations at Geneva and could re-
12 sult in heightened tension in the area. If negotiations
13 become deadlocked in the coming weeks, there will be an in-
14 creased risk of Syrian-Israeli clashes on the Golan Heights.

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20 2. Fighting continues in the Kurdistan region of Iraq,
21 with government forces holding the initiative for the mom-
22 ent.

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32 II. USSR-Eastern Europe

33 3. We see no indications of hostile intent in the
34 military activity of the USSR or other Warsaw Pact
35 nations. [REDACTED]

36 III. Southeast Asia

37 4. The Communists in South Vietnam apparently are
38 being briefed on a new directive to achieve the over-
39 throw of the Thieu government by political action or
40 through a "general offensive" to be launched in January
41 1975. Thus far we have not detected other indications
42 that we would expect to see if the North Vietnamese
43 were preparing for an offensive comparable to the one
44 launched during Tet 1968. We believe the purpose of
45 this new document is to exhort the Communists to make
46 greater efforts during the anticipated increase in
47 fighting in the southern portion of the country, al-
48 though the North Vietnamese do have the capability to
49 launch a 1972-scale offensive with little or no warn-
50 ing. [REDACTED]

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BACKUP

I. Middle East

ISRAEL-ARAB STATES

1a. The Arab summit conference, which ended 29 October, adopted a unanimous decision on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO. This decision was resolved on 28 October when King Hussein agreed in principle to PLO representation of the West Bank and PLO Chairman Arafat agreed to Palestinian attendance at the Geneva peace talks as part of the Jordanian contingent. In addition, the Arabs have agreed to send a unified delegation to the Geneva talks composed of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO which would prevent Israel negotiating piecemeal with the separate Arab states. The results of the conference could have serious political repercussions within Israel which has blocked all Palestinian efforts to obtain international legitimacy, and maintained a policy of refusal to deal with any Palestinian organization. Israeli newspapers are reporting that the emergence of the Palestinian guerrillas as the dominant force in the Israeli-occupied West Bank of Jordan has struck a heavy blow at Kissinger's Middle East peace efforts and virtually torpedoed the Geneva peace conference. Israeli government sources indicate that the official view will be expressed when Deputy Prime Minister Allon addresses the Knesset, perhaps on 30 October.

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BACKUP

III. Southeast Asia

VIETNAM

4a. Communist forces in South Vietnam are apparently being briefed on a new directive. [redacted] the document or Directive 8--based on Hanoi's Resolution 21 which became available in early 1974--is to replace COSVN Directives 4 and 7 which have been compromised. This new directive is to govern actions beginning now and continuing through June 1975. The document calls for a nation-wide military campaign to destroy half of the GVN forces, concurrently with "massive" demonstrations beginning on 1 November in Saigon and elsewhere to force President Thieu's resignation, and, failing that, a coup. If these actions are not successful in bringing about a coalition government, a "general offensive" more intense than that of Tet 1968 will be launched in January 1975. The purpose of this directive is probably to exhort the Communists and their followers to make greater effort in preparation for an increase in fighting anticipated in all but the north-central coastal areas of the country. [redacted]

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BACKUP

Cyprus-Greece-Turkey

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The prisoner exchange on Cyprus continues without major problems

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[REDACTED] The caretaker government in Greece is presently occupied with elections to be held on 17 November, while the Prime Minister of Turkey is attempting to form a coalition government without much success. Neither the Greeks nor the Turks want to make Cyprus a political issue at this time, and there probably will not be any significant moves regarding the island until after a new government is formed in Greece. [REDACTED]

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